



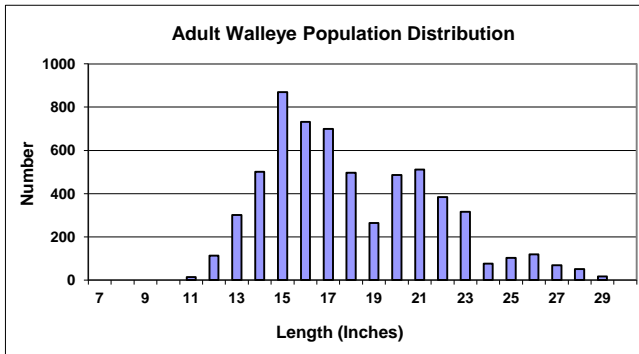
**WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

LAKE: TROUT

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2016

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Trout Lake, Vilas County, from April 21st through May 20th, in order to assess the status of the walleye and muskellunge populations. Trout Lake is a drainage lake with predominantly sand and rubble substrates. It has a surface area of 3,816 acres, 17.9 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 117 feet. Trout Lake's walleye population is sustained through limited natural reproduction and supplemental stocking, while the musky population appears to be maintained almost entirely through stocking.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

Walleye



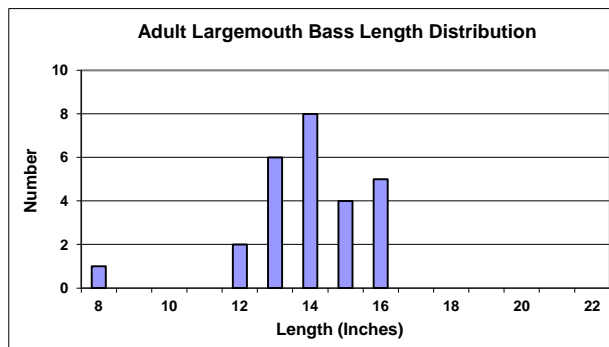
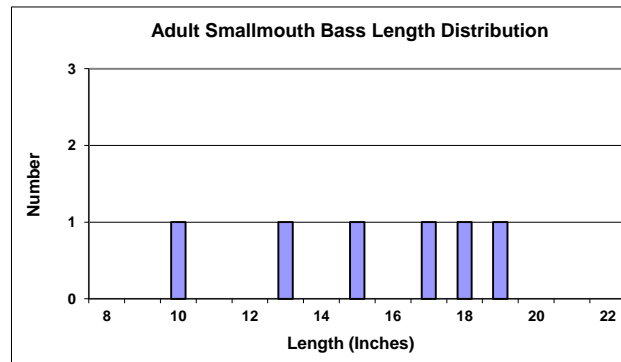
During 13 days of fyke netting, 1,443 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Several crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and captured 335 adult walleye. During electrofishing 30% (99 of 335) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 29.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Trout Lake was estimated to contain 6,127 adult walleye (1.6/acre). An estimated 85% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass were not a primary target during our survey of Trout Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth spawning. As a result, just six smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, four (67%) were 14 inches long or larger, with the largest measuring 19.6 inches.



Largemouth Bass



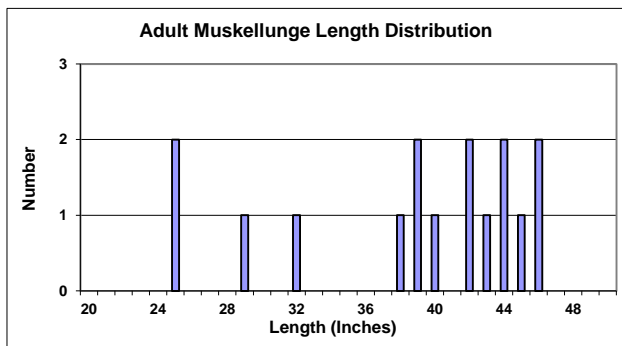
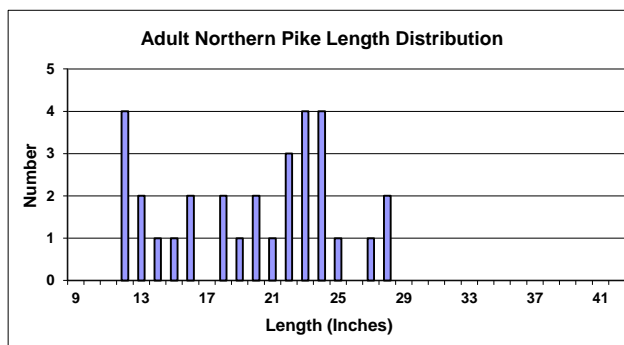
Largemouth Bass were also not a primary target during our survey of Trout Lake. Nevertheless, 26 largemouth bass eight inches or larger were captured incidentally during our surveys. Of those largemouth captured, 65% were 14 inches long or larger, with the largest measuring 16.8 inches.

Northern Pike



31 adult northern pike were captured during our surveys on Trout Lake. Of those pike captured, 90% were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 28.7-inch female.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Trout Lake, 15 adult muskellunge were captured. Of those muskellunge captured, 60% (9 of 15) were 40 inches long or larger, with the largest being a 46.7-inch female. Additionally, three juvenile muskellunge (13.9" - 25.6") were also captured.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 13 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Trout Lake. Yellow perch and rock bass were common in our fyke net catches. Other species sampled in lower numbers included shorthead redhorse, white sucker, common shiner, creek chub, burbot, cisco, lake whitefish, lake trout, black crappie, pumpkinseed, and bluegill.

A creel survey will be conducted on Trout Lake throughout the 2016-17 fishing season. Creel clerk Matt Meulemans will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort in addition to angler catch and harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Trout Lake, Vilas County, 2016

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	15" min. length, 20-24" no harvest slot, 1 fish over 24" allowed
Largemouth Bass	May 7 - March 5	1 in total with SMB	18 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	1 in total with LMB; harvest season only	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	45 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None
Lake Trout	May 7 - September 30	1	30 inches

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Trout Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June 2017 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrsrsrvys.html>. For questions, contact:

Lawrence Eslinger, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-5211 Ext. 209
Email: lawrence.eslinger@wisconsin.gov

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Trout Lake, Vilas County, contact:

Steve Gilbert, Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-5211 Ext. 229
Email: stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov